



TOGETHER WE MOVE SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD

Extracts on Education

from the 2014 ANC National and Provincial Election Manifesto

Improving and Expanding Education and Training

The ANC is committed to the progressive realisation of free education at all levels. We have made progress in achieving universal access to quality basic education, but we need to work harder to ensure introduction of free education in higher education and training.

The key commitments laid out for the next five years are making early childhood development a priority, eradicating illiteracy, improving the quality of teaching and learning in schools, and building capacity in higher education and training.

In the next five years the ANC will:

Make early childhood development a top priority

We will work towards realising two years of compulsory pre-school education and strive for fuller integration of Grade R educators in the post and remuneration structure.

About one million poor families will benefit from access to an early learning stimulation programme through community-based initiatives and home visits to prepare children before the foundation phase of formal schooling (Grades R, 1 to 3).

We will strengthen coordination between departments responsible for early childhood development, and with the non-profit and private sectors.

Improve the quality of teaching and learning in our schools

We will make interventions, through curriculum and assessment policies, to improve performance in our schools.

We will maintain the upward trend in the mathematics pass rate while improving the quality of those passes.

A phased-approach to the introduction of compulsory African languages in schools will be adopted. We will continue to promote sports, arts, heritage and culture at our schools.

Teacher development will receive ongoing attention. Teacher colleges linked to universities will be re-opened and in-service teacher training intensified. Bursary programmes will also be used to improve teacher development. We will investigate appropriate working conditions for public servants, teachers in particular.

We will continue our campaign to ensure good discipline and accountability in our schools – that teachers are on time, in class and teaching, and that learners are in class and learning. Principals will be supported to maintain discipline and high standards of conduct.

School safety programmes will be implemented to ensure learner well-being. Violent incidents, including abuse of learners, within and outside schools will not be tolerated.

We will introduce mobile devices like tablets into schools to distribute learning content.

We will aim to ensure that every child has a textbook for every learning area and that retrieval of textbooks is improved.

Eradicate illiteracy

We will continue to work towards the eradication of illiteracy through the Kha Ri Gude mass literacy programme.

Expand and improve the capacity of the higher education and training system

We will open two new universities to students in the next five years.

We will enrol more than one million students in FET colleges in 2014 and enrol an additional 500,000 students in the next five years.

We will continue to improve governance and administration of FET colleges and adopt quality assurance measures, especially relating to curricula and training.

We will develop FET college-based mathematics and science foundation programmes to assist students to take up careers in engineering, science and technology.

We will develop a national network of Community Education and Training Centres from existing adult education and training centres.

Opportunities for workplace-based training and experience will be created through greater partnership between the sector education and training authorities (SETAs), workplaces, and education and training institutions.

As part of the campaign to turn every workplace into a training space, we will coordinate government efforts to significantly increase internships and placements in the public and private sectors.

We will advance reforms in skills development to ensure employers and labour, in partnership with learning institutions, carry out more technical and artisanal training.

Skills legislation will be amended to ensure compliance by all state entities in the payment of skills levies.

Working together with universities and FET colleges, we will intensify efforts to support the needs of poor students, including through adequate student funding and preparation for study.

We will implement community service for all graduates.

Expand school, college and university infrastructure

We will use the latest technology and building materials to ensure schools and other education infrastructure are built faster and are better suited to the differing climatic and other conditions across the country. This will promote conducive learning environments.

We will build 1,000 new schools to expand access to education and respond to the challenges of rural schooling and urban population growth.

The building of the two new universities in Mpumalanga and Northern Cape will be completed and a third dedicated health sciences university built.

Twelve new campuses for FET colleges will be completed in 2014.

An additional 50,000 student accommodation places will be provided through partnerships with the private sector and direct state initiatives.

In the last 20 years

- Pre-school education has expanded. The number of Grade R learners increased from 300,000 in 2003 to 780,000 in 2013.
- South Africa has achieved gender parity in school enrolment and exceeded the relevant Millennium Development Goal.
- The number of learners who passed matric increased from 50% before 1994 to around 78% today.
- More than 56,000 classrooms have been built.
- University student enrolment more than doubled from 495,000 students in 1994 to 953,000 students in 2012.
- The proportion of university students who were African increased from 49% in 1995 to more than 66% in 2010.
- More than 1.4 million students have benefited from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

In the last 5 years

- Over seven million learners are in no fee schools, up from five million in 2009.
- Over nine million learners in 20,000 schools receive daily meals.
- Further Education and Training (FET) college student headcount enrolments doubled from 345,566 in 2010 to 657,690 students in 2012.
- Teacher education has been expanded, with the number of new teacher graduates doubling from 6,000 in 2009 to 13,000 in 2012.
- The Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign has reached 3.7 million adults within five years, exceeding the Millennium Development Goal of halving illiteracy rates by 2015.

Education and training must be available to all, focusing on young children, students and adults. This requires, among other things, a comprehensive and integrated post-school education and training system.

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